

C H U R C H N E W S

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by the Northern Ecumenical Institute
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. Harry Johansson, Sigtuna, Sweden

Editor: Rev. Johs. Langhoff, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

No. 21

November 23rd, 1956.

Bishop Ordass Appeals to the Northern Countries.

On November 2nd the Lutheran Bishop in Hungary, Lajos Ordass, who, after having been rehabilitated a short while ago was re-installed as Bishop at the end of October, spoke over the radio to the Northern countries and their Churches. The speech was in Swedish so that no interpretation was needed, and the appeal made an overwhelming impression as it was delivered while the Russian panzer units were gathering around the Hungarian Capital.

"In the name of Jesus Christ, help us!" the Bishop said in his moving appeal to "my precious brethren in faith" in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Bishop Ordass said that also during the latest brutal events they had felt how they were born by the love and prayers of their Northern brethren in faith, and he appealed to the peoples of the Northern countries to join in the efforts for securing the neutrality which the country's National Government had gone in for. The Bishop further told about the tremendous need of thousands of Hungarians, resulting from the struggle. "We are facing hard times", the Bishop concluded, "and we beseech you to do your utmost to help the many who are suffering. God bless you all!"

In 1927-1928 Bishop Ordass studied in Sweden and has several times visited the Northern countries where he has many good friends, and the fact that he spoke in one of the Northern languages made his appeal so much the more impressive.

When the news of the Russian action in Hungary spread next Sunday, it gave a special character to many church services where the congregations joined in intercession for peace and for the Hungarian people. Among the many resolutions of protest coming in from all over the Northern countries during that day were also several from Church quarters. Typical of these was a resolution from a number of Church institutions in Århus, second-largest town in Denmark, which was formed as an appeal to the Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, and which ran as follows,

"We feel convinced that the whole free world is deeply shocked at the thought of the unspeakable sufferings of the Hungarian people during these hours, and, in complete unison, the free world appeals for the respect of man and for charity.

"We place our faith in the United Nations in the conviction that this organization is the only instrument at this moment able to contribute to the aversion of a catastrophe.

"We are in favour of any political and humanitarian move decided upon by the United Nations which may help the Hungarian people."

All over the Northern countries collections have been taken for humanitarian and religious relief work in Hungary and among the Hungarian refugees.

New President of the Northern Ecumenical Institute.

The Council of the Northern Ecumenical Institute at Sigtuna at a recent meeting elected Professor K.E. Skydsgaard as its new President, and Bishop Manfred Björkquist, formerly Stockholm, as Vice-President, and Professor Aimo T. Nikolainen, Helsinki (Helsingfors), as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

During the next year the Council decided to conduct a conference for church ministers and lay-people at Båstad, Sweden; a church conference for members of the press at Nyborg Strand, Denmark; and a conference for the ecumenical secretaries in the Northern countries at Sigtuna, Sweden. Besides, it is planned to hold a Northern rally in Denmark in 1958.

DENMARK

Sermon at Parliamentary Church Service Causes Attention.

A sermon delivered by the well-known Professor of Theology at the University of Århus, Regin Prenter, at the annual church service in connection with the opening of Parliament in October, has caused great attention and lively discussion in wide circles. Professor Prenter preached over the text "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" and about the special responsibility of every member of the legislative body of a country towards this Commandment. He mentioned the far-reaching social legislation of recent years which has put an end to much human need and misery and, with the Commandment about charity in mind, he warned against abolishing this social legislation even though some money might be saved by it.

At the same time, Professor Prenter emphasized that the responsibility of the legislative power also has its quite definite limits, and that the greatest danger of the modern welfare state is, not to acknowledge these limits. The Professor said,

"The danger is that the State not only cares materially for those who are not able to take care of themselves, but that it will care both materially and spiritually for all of us and to such a degree that the personal responsibility of the individual is weakened by it. The enormous technical developments of our time have caused the State to accept res-

possibilities far beyond what was the case previously. This trend is not without danger to Democracy. For a democracy can only live as long as there is a living feeling of responsibility in the people. On the day when the politicians alone have any responsibility and all we others let ourselves be blindly led by them, on that day Democracy will be finished. It is equally important to the politicians to be aware of the danger inherent in accepting too great a responsibility, and thus contribute towards making people incapable of managing their own affairs.

Professor Prenter's sermon has resulted in a number of leading articles and letters to the press. He has been strongly criticized for having delivered a "political sermon" intending to act as guidance for the politicians instead of conducting an ordinary devotional service. To this Professor Prenter answered that "a colourless church service is of no devotional value".

Christian Christiansen Returns to Denmark.

The present leader of the Lutheran World Federation's relief work among Arabian refugees in Syria, Christian Christiansen, will return to Denmark next spring. He has accepted the post of Secretary-General to "The Copenhagen Church Foundation", an organization working for the erection of churches in the fast growing new districts of Copenhagen.

During the War, Christian Christiansen was a Y.M.C.A. secretary to Allied prisoners of war in Berlin and was imprisoned by the Russians in 1945 and spent a year in prison in Moscow. On his return, he first became secretary to prisoners of war in London and later in Egypt. In 1949 he was appointed secretary to the Lutheran World Federation and, since 1952, leader of the Federation's relief work among Arabian refugees in Syria. Christian Christiansen is 42 years of age.

Radio Recordings of Russian Church Services.

The leader of the Reporting Section of the Danish State Broadcasting Corporation, Aksel Dahlerup, and Head of the Special Talks' Section, Hans Sølvhøj, recently returned from a journey to the Soviet Union where they have made a number of recordings, first and foremost dealing with educational, agricultural, and housing conditions. Among the recordings are also radio sound pictures from religious services in some of the churches in Kiew and Leningrad, so that Danish listeners may get an impression of the character of these services.

The recordings are being used in a series of five to six broadcasts about the Soviet Union which were begun shortly after the return of the radio people and will be continued during the coming weeks.

FINLAND

Report from Estonia.

The first Finnish church minister to visit Estonia in 17 years, the Rev. Kauko Salmenkallio, who especially works among undergraduates, visited the country during one week in October together with a students' delegation, and on his return reported on the conditions of the Lutheran Church in Estonia.

There are 146 Lutheran congregations, he states, besides 20 so-called "chapel congregations". Some 100 priests are working among the congregations and in places where there is no minister, the work is in charge of evangelists and deacons who are not permitted to serve at Holy Communion, but may conduct Baptismal services. In Tallinn (Reval) there are 7 congregations with altogether 8 ministers. According to the report 16.000 of Tallinn's 320.000 inhabitants are members of the congregations.

At the moment there are some 30 divinity students in Estonia, but as the theological faculty at the University of Tartu (Dorpat) has been closed down, the theological study curriculum is drawn up by the consistory. The divinity students do regular work in the congregations or elsewhere simultaneously with their studies. The final examinations are passed before the consistory.

The Lutheran Church is not allowed to have meetings for smaller groups. For this reason there are no bible study classes, Sunday schools, or meetings for the undergraduates. There is a shortage of German and Russian Bibles. The latest edition of the Old Testament in Estonian is from 1938 and printed in Finland. Since the War, only 5 new churches have been erected.

The State only finances the restoration of such church buildings as are considered to be of great historical value. Young people (13 - 30 years) are sadly missing among church-goers.

Revaluation Needed in the Cultural Point of View.

The Cultural Committee of the Finnish Lutheran National Church, set up by the Enlarged Bishops' Conference (CN No. 18) under the chairmanship of the President, Bishop Eino Sormunen, Kuopio, has now met for the first time. In his opening address Bishop Sormunen emphasized that we have no right to denounce the enormous developments in science in our days, but at the same time we may note that the predominant feature in the soul of modern man is scruples of conscience. A revaluation of the cultural approach is needed.

The Committee will take advantage of the experiences made at the Sigtuna Foundation, Sweden, and at the German Evangelical Academies, and will work in close co-operation with the "Förbundet för Kristelig Kultur" ("The Association for Christian Culture"), the Finnish Settlement Movement, and the "Förbundet för Finskt Församlingsarbete" ("The Union for Finnish Parish Work"). The Committee will especially aim at strengthening the contacts of the Church with representatives of creative work in literature and art, with lawyers and members of the press, as well as with representatives of the country's economic life.

Bishop Gulin Returns From Canada.

Bishop Elis Gulin, Tampere (Tammerfors) has returned from a 33-days' journey to Canada where he visited groups and congregations of Finnish emigrants. Altogether, he visited 30 different places and gave 80 addresses. To-day there are 60.000 Finns spread out all over Canada, but only 5 % of them are members of the present 14 Finnish congregations. The very fact that the emigrants live so far apart rather complicates the work of the Church. In Port Arthur the Bishop had the occasion to dedicate a new Finnish church and install a new minister.

Many New Students at Missionary Course.

The Mission Society of the Finnish Lutheran National Church has admitted more new students than ever before to its missionary course - with the exception of the very first course to be held immediately after the War. This year 24 students have applied for admittance. The course is led by the Rev. Peltola.

"Spiritual Days" for Disabled Soldiers.

In Finland there is a very large number of disabled soldiers from the last two wars, and an "Association of Brethren of Disabled Soldiers" has been established to work for their benefit. A special section of this Association is in charge of the spiritual care of the invalids. The secretary of this section is Oke Sara-Aho, and 150 of the 406 local branches of the Association either have a member in contact with the Church or else a "spiritual committee". "Spiritual Days for Brethren" are arranged for the sake of the disabled men and their families, as well as discussion groups and family evenings. Such "Spiritual Days" for disabled soldiers were held during October at Lapua (Lappo).

The Church Asks the State for 20 Million Marks for Porkkala.

A church deputation, headed by Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist, has appealed to the Prime Minister, K.A. Fagerholm, for a grant of 20 million Finnish marks towards the ecclesiastical restoration work necessary in Porkkala after its return from the Soviet Union. The total costs of the restoration of the two churches and a rectory are estimated at 50 - 60 million marks. Collections in Finland, Sweden, and Denmark have raised app. 10 million marks and it is expected to obtain other 15 million marks from inter-church funds.

The Prime Minister received the deputation cordially and promised to do his best to secure the grant which he, personally, thought too modest.

513 Million Marks for Social Purposes Collected Over Seven Years.

The annual collection of the Finnish Lutheran National Church towards social and relief work, "Common Responsibility", this year totalled 77,9 million Finnish marks. During the seven years in which this collection has been in action a total sum of 513 million marks has been raised. Three fourths of this money has been spent in direct support of people in need through the relief organizations of the parishes, and the remainder has been used by the institutional and relief organizations of the Church.

The former Finnish President, J.K. Paasikivi, patron of this collection until recently, a short while ago was handed an address of appreciation by a deputation from the committee in charge of the collection campaign, and Bishop Heliövaara, on behalf of the deputation, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for his valuable assistance.

The new Finnish President, Urho Kekkonen, and his wife have assented to be the patrons of the "Common Responsibility" collection next year.

ICELAND

Bishop Gudmundsson Visits the Soviet Union.

At the invitation of the Head of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Patriarch Alexis, Iceland's Lutheran Bishop, Asmundur Gudmundsson, Reykjavik, has been on a fortnight's visit to the Soviet Union where he visited a number of churches. Besides becoming acquainted with church life, the Bishop also had an opportunity of getting to know various aspects of cultural life in the Soviet Union.

Danish Priest Carves Altar-Piece for Icelandic Cathedral.

Among the many gifts from the other Northern countries for the new cathedral at Skálholt in Iceland, the foundation stone of which was laid during the jubilee festivities last summer, was also an altar-piece, carved by a Danish church minister. The Rev. Finn Tulinius, rector of Strø, whose father was from Iceland, has worked on the altar-piece for 40 years and now presented it to the country of his father. It is a triptych in oak, depicting the Crucifixion, surrounded by scenes from the stories of the childhood, manhood, and passion of Christ.

NORWAY

Parliament Repeals Prohibition Against Jesuits.

On November 1st, the Norwegian Parliament resolved to repeal the paragraph in the Norwegian Constitution stating that "Jesuits must not be tolerated". The Amendment was carried with 111 votes against 31 after a debate lasting for more than 10 hours. Twice previously during this century, bills proposing to repeal the prohibition have been introduced, but they have not been able to obtain the majority of two thirds of the votes necessary to carry amendments to the Constitution.

This time the Government proposed the Amendment because it felt that the prohibition was not in accordance with the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. Seven of Norway's nine bishops were in favour of the Bill, and the same was the case in regard to six of the eight theological professors. Nevertheless, the opposition against the Amendment originated mostly from Church quarters. The "Kristeligt Folkeparti" ("The Christian People's Party"), having 15 seats in Parliament, voted unanimously against the Bill. They referred to the "special moral code" of the Jesuits and their absolute obedience towards their superiors, and maintained that they constituted a danger to the moral of the nation, particularly in regard to the young people whom they may influence through their educational activities. In the course of the debate, references were also made to the Roman Catholic transgressions in Spain and Colombia. The majority, including several of the ecclesiastical members of Parliament and other well-known Christian personages, especially pointed out to the principles of tolerance and religious freedom and were of the opinion that the Jesuits should be fought, if need be, with spiritual weapons. They also referred to the fact that the Jesuits are admitted entrance into both Sweden and Denmark without any apparent detrimental effects.

First Norwegian Cathedral to be Dedicated since the Middle Ages.

At Bodø, 80 km north of the Arctic Circle, a new cathedral was dedicated last month, the first new one since the Middle Ages. Bodø, a small town of some 7,000 inhabitants, was badly damaged during an air-raid in 1940, and among the many hundred buildings turned into shambles was also the church. Both during and after the War, the congregation had to gather for Sunday services in various other places, such as a cinema, a wooden hut put up by the Salvation Army for their meetings, and most of the time in a hut which was originally used at a big rally by Norwegian choirs and since the end of the War equipped as a temporary church hall.

Already in 1945 plans were drawn up for the re-building of the church at Bodø, but various obstacles delayed the work. While planning the new church, the farthest north diocese in Norway was divided into two, and Bodø became the see of the new South-Hålogaland diocese, and the new church thus became a cathedral. It is built like a basilica with four aisles and a free tower. In the nave there are seats for about 900 people, but at an angle to the chancel there is first a small chapel and then two parish halls which may be put into direct connection with the chancel during great festivals, but otherwise they are used for congregational gatherings.

The dedication of the cathedral at Bodø was performed by Bishop Wollert Krohn-Hansen and was attended by Crown Prince Olav.

Norwegian Church Academy Founded.

After several years of preparatory work and experiments the Norwegian Church Academy was recently founded. According to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Rev. Odd Godal, the main object of the Academy is to "enter into an open and honest confrontation of Christianity with cultural life such as we meet it, at all times, in poetry and art, in philosophy of life and in science". The Academy, to which anyone may be admitted, will conduct conferences, courses, and study circles. For the time being it will be connected with Fredriksborg near Oslo where the originators of the scheme for some years have conducted courses and series of lectures, but the plan is to introduce similar activities in other places in the country. According to Rev. O. Godal, the presupposition is that the Academy "should not be isolated in its work, but carry it out in open co-operation with the other organs of the Church, and in honest acceptance of the situation in which we find ourselves".

Besides the Executive Committee, the Academy is governed by a Board of 15 members, representing widely different groups in cultural and religious spheres of life.

Church Visitors Establish Contacts with Ten Thousands of Homes.

In 30 parishes in Oslo and environs and in 31 parishes in the vicinity of Stavanger on the West coast of Norway a comprehensive "evangelistic campaign" was conducted during the month of October. In the course of one week lay-people first visited some 50,000 homes, most of which had never or seldom been in contact with the parish congregation where they lived. The visitors, who were kindly received almost everywhere, invited people to a series of meetings in the church, and the following week most of the 60 churches concerned were filled to capacity every evening.

Everywhere much greater attendance time has been set aside for this work, and similar campaigns are now being planned in other parts of the country, and in the districts where they have already been introduced the work will be followed up with a systematically organized visiting service. A number of laymen, taking part in this service, have told in the newspapers about the great renewal they have experienced through this kind of active work.

Greater Financial Possibilities for the Church.

Two things have happened in October which have given the Norwegian Church hopes of receiving considerable funds for the maintenance and enlargement of pioneering enterprises begun in many different fields during the past few years. In the first place, the Government introduced a Bill in Parliament proposing the establishment of an ecclesiastical national foundation with a capital of 8 million crowns. The proceeds should be used for increased support of missions, church restoration programmes, scholarships, and inter-denominational relations. Secondly, after two years of preparation, the Diocesan Councils have established a new organization, "Kristen Indsats" ("Christian Action") which is to engage individual supporters of pioneer church undertakings. The goal of the Action is to collect one million crowns annually and again to distribute all of this sum as it goes along.

It is well-known that all the ordinary expenses of the Norwegian Lutheran Church for salaries and the upkeep of church buildings are covered by municipal and state grants, and it is a condition of the new institutions that none of their funds be used for relieving the State of its responsibilities. It is also specified that "Kristen Indsats" should not seek its supporters among the many who already contribute great sums towards the work of foreign missions, the work among seamen and fishermen, and various home mission activities.

The 8 million crowns of the National Foundation of the Norwegian Church are not a gift from the Government, but are funds to which the Church has been entitled ever since the War. When the clergymen during the War resigned their offices by protest against the existing regime and the German occupation, the congregation continued to pay their salaries from their own collected funds. After the War the Government acknowledged its obligation to refund the salaries of the clergy for this whole period; but the ministers did not want double pay and instead suggested that the money be used for new undertakings in the Church. It is this money which has now been turned into a National Foundation.

The sums collected by "Kristen Indsats" are to be used mainly for the continuation and further extension of a number of activities started with financial help from the American Lutheran Churches. Such American donations have, among other things, supported the Institute for Christian Upbringing, an institute for the training of nursery school teachers, the Christian Film Council, the Norwegian Inter-Church Institute, and several similar institutions which have proved helpful in establishing contacts on the part of the Church, and in training a number of new Church specialists. The Church now wishes to continue these activities on its own, while, at the same time, new tasks are waiting to be taken up. Some of the funds are to be spent by the Diocesan Councils in arranging conferences, the distribution of scholarships, and the like.

30,000 Christmas Parcels for Norwegian Seamen.

Every Christmas Norwegian seamen overseas receive a Christmas parcel through the Norwegian Mission to Seamen, most often accompanied by a letter from the unknown sender in Norway. The first Christmas gifts parcels are collected early in the autumn and forwarded to the most distant places. This year the Mission to Seamen asks for 30,000 parcels and it seems as if they are to get them. The parcels contain small personal presents made by friends of the Mission to seamen and by parents whose own sons are at sea. The parcels, which only carry addresses like "To the tallest man on board" or "To the one with a hole in his stocking", are handed out either at the many Christmas parties arranged by the various Seamen's Churches, or they are delivered on board the boats which do not call at any harbour during Christmas and are then distributed by the Captain on Christmas Eve.

SWEDEN

Archbishop of Sweden on Relations with the State.

The Archbishop of the Swedish Lutheran National Church, Bishop Elioth, has recently published a book called "Vården om Fyrkan" ("The Care of the Church") in which he expresses a number of topical commentaries on the relationship between State and Church in Sweden. On several points he acknowledged that the State and, not the least, the present Minister of Church Affairs, are justified in claiming a positive appraisal on the part of the Church, but on the whole the book is rather pessimistic in its views on the State. The Archbishop especially deals with the question of dividing up the parishes, a matter of pressing importance during the past few years in which the State, with its desire for a decrease in the number of parishes, has adopted a line of policy which cannot be approved by the Church. Among other things, the Archbishop writes,

"Until 1954 it seemed quite possible that the co-existence of State and Church might continue along the present lines. But the last few years have awakened a great uncertainty, an increasing unrest. We acknowledge with gratitude that at certain points a positive care for the Church may still be noted, in as much as internal ecclesiastical matters receive the attention of positively inclined governmental committees. But in regard to the important questions of Church policy there is a growing unrest and wonder in the minds of more and more people. The pressing question is: is it possible to continue like this without causing irreparable damage to the Church? Has the care for the Church turned into its opposite, and the fundamental condition for the connection between State and Church disappeared?"

However, the Archbishop draws attention to the many complications resulting from a separation of Church and State, and concludes his book with the words,

"It is our hope that a means may be found for preserving the connection between State and Church, so that the Church, without encroachment upon the principle of religious freedom, may still be able to accept general support, but in such a way that it, nevertheless, retains the liberty and independence necessary for the propagation of the Message of its Lord and for being the Salt in civic life, for which the need evidently seems greater to-day than ever before."

Big Advertising Campaign for Church Attendance in Stockholm.

During October and the beginning of November the Diocesan Council of Stockholm carried out an extensive and well-planned advertising campaign in the Stockholm press under the slogan "Let's Go to Church!". Every Saturday, advertisements with catching pictures and a short text has drawn attention to the problems dealt with in the following Sunday sermon over the fixed Bible text for that day..

The campaign was planned by two committeeés, headed by Bishop Helge Ljungberg and set up by the Diocesan Council, which since last spring has been studying a number of questions concerning church attendance, in order partly, to find means for stimulating an increased church attendance, partly to find refreshing forms for church life on the basis of these studies.

No-one is converted by advertisements, Bishop Ljungberg states, but the purpose of this campaign is quite simply to influence "the passive friends of the Church", i.e. people who are positively inclined, but who seldom go to church, to attend a service. According to investigations made, this group includes 40-50 % of the population.

The series of advertisements, drawn up by theological, homiletic, and practical church and advertising experts, has aroused great interest due to its high standard and has at least resulted in an immediate increase of the number of people attending church services.

In January 1957 the Diocesan Council of Stockholm plans to conduct an extensive revivalist campaign in the Capital on an ecumenical basis, and next autumn an advertising campaign, taking in the whole country, is planned by the Swedish Ecumenical Council in continuance of the one just completed in Stockholm.

In addition to this, experiments are being carried out in Stockholm with visual aids at the service, as for instance, "question boxes" in which members of the congregation may put notes with problems to which they would like help and advice, and wire recorders which may be lent to ministers so that they may be able to listen to their own talks and correct possible linguistic peculiarities.

Estonian Refugee Bishop Consecrated in Sweden.

Last month a Greek-Orthodox bishop was consecrated in Sweden for the first time. It was the Estonian refugee priest, Jüri Välbe, who had been elected Bishop last April by the Estonian Orthodox Church Synod in Sweden, the election being confirmed later on by the ecumenical Patriarch in Constantinople. The Consecration took place in Stockholm and was performed by the Archbishop Athenagoras from London, the Metropolitan of Melita, James from Geneva, and the Bishop of Thermon, Chrysostomos from Vienna.

Shorter Working Hours and Church Holidays.

In Sweden the usual number of weekly working hours in industry will most likely gradually be decreased from 48 to 45 hours a week during 1958-1960, which should have the effect of making Saturday a day-off.

The Parliamentary Commission drawing up the draft for the shortening of working hours, has pointed out the inconvenience, from the point of view of production, caused by the special religious Holy Days in

connection with Christmas, Easter, and Whitsunday, and to the decreased income on the part of large sections of the population due to these festivals.

In this connection the Board of the Home Mission of the Lutheran National Church and the Joint Committee of the Free Churches have been asked for their opinion on the matter. Both organizations are in favour of a 45-hours working week, taking into consideration the possible importance in our days of increased spare time because much industrial labour is characterized by monotony, resulting in physical and psychical tiredness. But at the same time, they are opposed to the suggestion of the Committee that experts should investigate anew the question of religious Holy Days as they do not feel that any alterations in this respect ought to be made, in as much as these holidays are deeply rooted in tradition, and are of great importance also in the matter of mental health. In its comments, the Board of the Home Mission stresses the point, that no-one ought to receive less pay because of increased spare time obtained on account of the special Church festivals.

Church Denominations in Sweden in Closer Contact?

In a leading article, the Swedish Free Church periodical, "Kristet Forum" draws attention to a number of signs pointing to the fact that the various denominations in Sweden seem to be approaching each other during these years. The periodical states, among other things,

"In Baptist quarters a certain re-orientation in regard to Baptism and also in the matter of open Communion may be noted. The congregationalistic views of the Swedish Mission Covenant are changing and the idea is being ventilated of a spiritual universal view of the Christian community which is also apparent in matters of organization. On the part of the Swedish National Church the statement may be heard that the idea of a National Church is giving way to the Small Churches Movement with its talk about "God's house companions", i.e. the congregations gathering around altar and pulpit. From the Free Churches it is said that the extreme individualistic Free Church point of view does not enough take into consideration the relationship of the family and the congregation. A family church idea is coming into the foreground, which at least has a sociological likeness to the Small Churches Movement. All this means that things are actually happening in the every-day life of the Church which may be of ecumenical consequences in the future."

"Kristet Forum" sums up its commentary in the following question,

"Is it right that denominational communities, which have discovered a far-reaching accordance in doctrinal matters, should remain apart from one another?"

Notes.

The President for many years of the Swedish Mission Covenant, Richard Larsson, has died. Richard Larsson was a prominent person, well-known in ecumenical quarters in Sweden, and widely respected among church people of other denominations as well as of his own church.

Stockholm has appointed a special school minister. The number of pupils in the schools has been rapidly increasing during the past few years and the need for a special school minister was evident. Financially supporting the work of the new school minister are the Work Fund of the Diocese, the Christian High School Students' Movement, and the Board of the Home Mission.

